

# UCLA Faculty Association

News and opinion from Dan Mitchell since 2009

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Monday, May 5, 2025

## Will Harvard Continue to Lead the Charge? - Part 2



We noted in our prior post about Harvard's response to prior letters from the feds and its choice to litigate that it would likely prevail on the legal issues - eventually. But we also noted that the issues about which it was litigating were cutoffs of grants that had already been awarded. Absent something more than a letter, the cutoffs lacked any due process and thus were likely to be found illegal. Also, we noted that it would be harder for Harvard to prevail if the issue were focused on new grants or renewed grants. Not all grant applications are successful; not all existing grants are renewed.

To operate a research university successfully, there needs to be a continuing flow of new money as old grants expire.

Today, the Secretary of Education announced there would be no new grants. From [Inside Higher Ed](#):

*Harvard University won't be getting any new grants, Education Secretary Linda McMahon wrote in a blistering letter to the institution that was posted on the social media platform known as X. "Harvard will cease to be a publicly funded institution and can instead operate as a privately-funded institution, drawing on its colossal endowment and raising money from its large base of wealthy alumni," McMahon wrote. "You have an approximately \$53 billion head start, much of which was made possible by the fact you are living within the walls of, and benefiting from, the prosperity secured by the United States of America and its free-market system you teach your students to despise."*

*McMahon didn't specify what grants she was referring to in the letter, sent Monday evening, but other media outlets reported that the Trump administration was cutting Harvard off from new research grants...*

Full article at <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/quick-takes/2025/05/05/trump-admin-cuts-new-research-funding-harvard>.

Below is the letter: [Click on images to clarify.]



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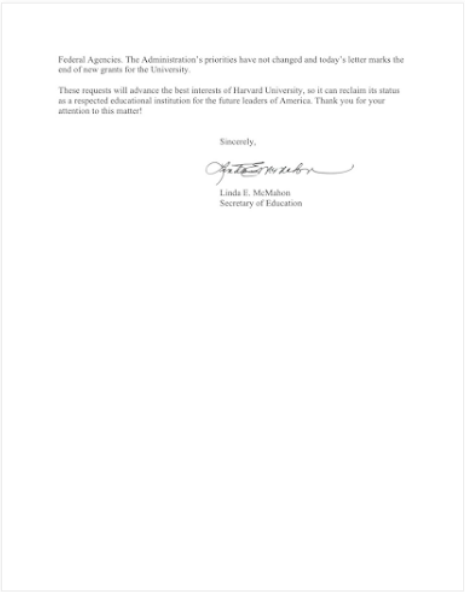
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Source: <https://ia600402.us.archive.org/9/items/2-final-hjaa-report.-the-soil-beneath-the-encampments/Harvard%20Letter%20from%20Secy%20of%20Ed%205-5-2025.pdf>. Original from <https://x.com/edsecmcmahon/status/1919517481313427594>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 5:45 PM No comments:

Labels: diversity, Harvard, politics

ICE Again



From [Inside Higher Ed](#): *The Trump administration issued plans earlier this week for a new policy that vastly expands federal officials' authority to terminate students' legal residency status, according to newly released court documents.*

*The policy detailed in the filings asserts that immigration officials have the "inherent authority" to terminate students' legal residency status in the Student Exchange and Visitor Information System "as needed." It also explicitly lays out two new justifications for SEVIS terminations: the vague "evidence of failure to comply" with nonimmigrant visa terms, and a visa revocation, which can be issued without evidence of a violation by the State Department—and which, crucially, is not subject to court challenges...*

Full story at <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/global/international-students-us/2025/05/02/new-ice-policy-puts-international-students-greater>.

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Labels: [diversity](#), [politics](#)

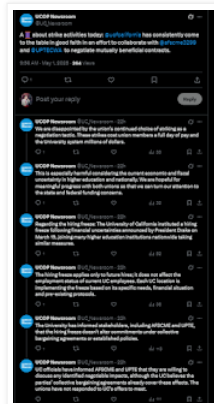
## UC's New Approach to Labor Relations - Part 5



From time to time, we have been taking note of the professionalization of the labor relations function at UCOP that seems to have been a byproduct of the 2022 student-worker strike.

Exactly, how this approach manifests at the bargaining table is unclear. But in the field of public relations, it consists of publicizing the UCOP position when strikes have occurred. Lengthy "threads" on

X-Twitter seem to be the latest example in response to the short-term strike last week.



Source: [https://x.com/UC\\_Newsroom/status/1917941085915034067](https://x.com/UC_Newsroom/status/1917941085915034067).

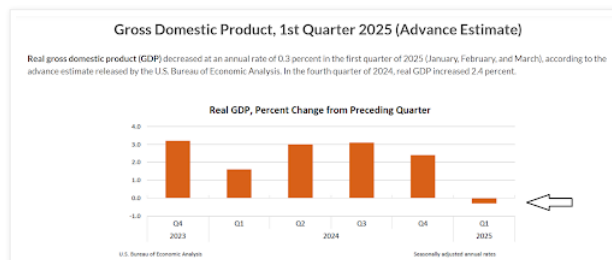
Note that because UC is in the public sector and subject to state law, changes at the federal NLRB by the Trump administration do not directly affect labor relations at the university. In the private sector, there are likely to be efforts to remove TAs and RAs from the definition of "employee."

Posted by California Policy Issues at [12:20 AM](#) No comments: 

Labels: [UCOP](#)

Sunday, May 4, 2025

## And in keeping with our previous post...



Tariffs and economy-related issues aren't going so well for the current administration. So there is an incentive now to get the focus off such matters and instead focus on something else. Like, maybe, higher ed institutions?

Source of chart: <https://www.bea.gov/news/2025/gross-domestic-product-1st-quarter-2025-advance-estimate>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at [12:35 AM](#) No comments: 

Labels: [politics](#)

## Collision

UC is on a collision course with the Trump administration with regard to in-state tuition in higher ed paid by undocumented students. From the [San Francisco Chronicle](#):

*An executive order by President Donald Trump, aimed at forcing local governments to turn people over to federal immigration officials when asked, also contains a single line that could have a seismic impact in California by promising to make it illegal for undocumented students to pay in-state college tuition.*

Trump's order, issued [last] Monday, vows to stop states from enforcing laws that "provide in-state higher education tuition to aliens but not to out-of-state American citizens." ...

Trump's order challenges state laws like Assembly Bill 540, California's Nonresident Tuition Exemption, enacted in 2001. The law allows in-state tuition for any nonresident who attends high school in California full time for at least three years, and who completes a set of other requirements, including signing an affidavit promising to legalize their immigration status as soon as possible if they are undocumented...

The University of California did not respond to a request for the number of its AB540 students. However, the DACA study identified 2,499 UC students in 2022-23...

Full story at <https://www.sfchronicle.com/california/article/tuition-exemption-undocumented-trump-order-20300477.php>.



Posted by California Policy Issues at 12:30 AM No comments:

Labels: diversity, politics, UC

Saturday, May 3, 2025

## Sanctuary



In a case involving the City of San Francisco, a federal judge has blocked a Trump administration attempt to halt funding based on that City's "sanctuary" policy. (Local police do not assist federal officers in immigration matters.)

UC campuses including UCLA have similar policies, although not officially dubbed "sanctuary." So it is likely that were a UC campus be subject to a similar attempt, it would get the same ruling.

From the [San Francisco Chronicle](#): A federal judge issued an order... prohibiting the Trump administration from withholding billions of dollars in funding to San Francisco and other local governments with sanctuary policies that bar their law enforcement officers from cooperating with federal immigration agents. U.S. District Judge William Orrick III of San Francisco issued a similar ruling in 2017, upheld on appeal, after President Donald Trump ordered federal officials to withhold funds from San Francisco and the state of California because of their sanctuary policies. He said during a Wednesday hearing that he was "inclined" to follow the same course in the current lawsuit by 16 cities and counties. In Thursday's order, he wrote, "here we are again" and noted that the "language and purpose" of the current executive order mirrors the 2017 order he ruled against.

The current orders being challenged "violate the Constitution's separation of powers principles and the Spending Clause, as explained by the Ninth Circuit in the earlier iteration of this case in 2018; they also violate the Fifth Amendment to the extent they are unconstitutionally vague and violate due process," Orrick wrote in granting an injunction...

Full story at <https://www.sfchronicle.com/politics/article/sf-sanctuary-cities-lawsuit-20291277.php>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 12:30 AM No comments:

Labels: diversity, politics, UC, UCLA

## Will Harvard Continue to Lead the Charge?



Harvard has been leading "The Resistance" to the Trump administration's various cuts of funding and legal threats. But leading the charge does not always produce happy outcomes:

*Half a league, half a league,*

*Half a league onward,*

*All in the valley of Death*

*Rode the six hundred.*

*"Forward, the Light Brigade!*

*Charge for the guns!" he said.*

*Into the valley of Death*

Rode the six hundred...  
Cannon to right of them,  
Cannon to left of them,  
Cannon behind them  
Volleyed and thundered;  
Stormed at with shot and shell,  
While horse and hero fell.  
They that had fought so well  
Came through the jaws of Death,  
Back from the mouth of hell,  
All that was left of them,  
Left of six hundred...

The Light Brigade - at least in the poetic version - made its disastrous charge against a better equipped enemy. Harvard, in contrast, probably has a winning hand in court as far as arbitrary cancellations of existing grants and penalties imposed without due process. And it has hired a roster of conservative lawyers to improve the odds should the case go to the Supreme Court.\* But courts can take a long time and may produce decisions subject to appeal. It's not clear that in the court of public opinion, as opposed to the judicial courts, Harvard has the advantage. And in any case, unlike the Light Brigade, Harvard has to contend with something of its own making: the report of its internal antisemitism committee which recently emerged in final form.\*\*

*"The 2023-24 academic year was disappointing and painful," [Harvard President Alan] Garber, who took office in January 2024, wrote.... "I am sorry for the moments when we failed to meet the high expectations we rightfully set for our community."*

Full story at:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2025/04/29/us/harvard-antisemitism-islamophobia-reports.html>.

What will happen in the longer run in part depends on political developments not controllable by Harvard. However, the legal issues that will surround *new* grants that aren't made or existing grants that aren't renewed will be murkier than those surrounding existing grants that were arbitrarily interrupted. Not all grants are approved, even in the best of times. All new applications and applications for renewal go through a review process.

So don't be surprised if, at some point, Harvard cuts a deal to avoid the Light Brigade scenario.

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\*<https://www.nytimes.com/2025/05/02/us/harvard-trump-conservative-lawyers.html>.

\*\*<https://ia600402.us.archive.org/9/items/2-final-hjaa-report-the-soil-beneath-the-encampments/Harvard-Antisemitism-Report-4.29.25%20final.pdf>.



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